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Glossary

Glossary of Grammatical Terms

ABSTRACT NOUN is a noun which does not refer to a physical object or to people, e.g. *beauty, life, reality*.

ADJECTIVE is a word which describes or qualifies a noun: **stor** *big*, **vanlig** *usual*, **röd** *red*. Adjectives in Swedish have different forms according to the nouns and articles with which they are used: **en stor bil** *a large car*, **den stora bilen** *the large car*, **(de) stora bilar(na)** *(the) large cars*; **ett stort bord** *a large table*, **det stora bordet** *the large table*, **(de) stora bord(en)** *(the) large tables*. (See **Adjectives** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

ADVERB is a word which qualifies a verb, adjective, or another adverb. Many adverbs in English end in *ly*; in Swedish they often end in **t**: **snabbt** *quickly*, **långsamt** *slowly*, **nästan** *almost*, **där** *there*. (See **Adverbs** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

ADVERB OF PLACE is an adverb which indicates where something happens: **Jag sitter här** *I sit here*, **Du bor där** *You live there*. Swedish adverbs of place have two forms, one indicating rest (**Jag bor här** *I live here*) and one indicating motion (**Jag kom hit** *I came here*). (See **Adverbs**, **B1** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

ADVERBIAL PHRASE is a group of words, generally introduced by a preposition, which replaces a simple adverb in a sentence: **Jag äter lunch där** *I eat lunch there*, **Jag äter lunch på en liten restaurang nära kontoret** *I eat lunch at a little restaurant near the office*.

ARTICLE There are two kinds of article: the indefinite article (*a* or *an*) and the definite article (*the*). In Swedish the indefinite article is **en** or **ett**, depending on the gender of the noun it is used with, e.g. **en bil** *a car*, **ett hus** *a house*. The definite article is **en** or **et**, added to the end of a noun, e.g. **bilen** *the car*, **huset** *the house*. The plural of the definite article is **na** (sometimes **a**) or **en**: **bilarna** *the cars*, **husen** *the houses*. (See **Articles** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

AUXILIARY VERB helps another verb to form, for example, a past tense, without changing the basic meaning of the main verb: **de har kommit** *they have come*. The auxiliary verbs in Swedish are **att ha** (used to form the perfect) and **att bli** (used to form the passive).

CLAUSE is part of a sentence containing its own subject, verb and sometimes object. A sentence can consist of several clauses. The part of a sentence which expresses the main idea is called the main clause; in *I'm going to the post office because I need some stamps*, the main clause is *I'm going to the post office*. The other clause, *because I need some stamps*, is called a subordinate clause. A subordinate clause may be introduced by words such as *when, if, because, that*. If it is introduced by a relative pronoun (*who, which, that*), it is called a relative clause; a relative clause gives more

information about a person or thing in the main clause: **Mannen, som du såg igår, är min morbror.** *The man that you saw yesterday is my uncle.*

COMMON is one of the genders of Swedish. It is also sometimes called non-neuter. All Swedish nouns have a gender, either common or neuter, and any adjectives used with them must have the same gender.

COMPARATIVE is the form of an adjective used for comparing two things. In English the comparative is usually formed by adding *er* to the adjective, or using *more* before it; in Swedish the adjective adds **are** or **re**, or is preceded by **mer(a)**: **lätt** *easy*, **lättare** *easier*, **hög** *high*, **högre** *higher*; **romantisk** *romantic*, **mer(a) romantisk** *more romantic*. (See **Adjectives, E** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

COMPLEMENT is a noun or adjective following the verb *to be* and certain other verbs: **Han är svetsare.** *He is a welder.*

COMPOUND VERBS are verbs which consist either of a prefix and verb (e.g. **fortsätta** *to continue*, from **fort** and **sätta**), in which case they are called inseparable compound verbs, or of a verb followed by a particle (preposition, adverb or adverbial phrase), e.g. **komma ihåg** *to remember*, in which case they are called separable or loose compound verbs. (See **Verbs, H** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

CONDITIONAL CLAUSE is an if-clause and generally introduced by *if* in English and **om** in Swedish. (See also **Word order, B3** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

CONJUGATION is a group of verbs which all follow the same pattern of endings when forming their different tenses. There are four conjugations in Swedish.

CONJUNCTION is a word (or group of words) which joins a new clause to a sentence. Conjunctions can either be coordinating conjunctions, which join a main clause to another main clause, e.g. **Jag bor i Bromma men jag arbetar i Stockholm** *I live in Bromma but I work in Stockholm*, or subordinating conjunctions, which join a subordinate clause to a main clause, e.g. **Jag bor i Bromma, fast jag arbetar i Stockholm** *I live in Bromma although I work in Stockholm*. (See **Conjunctions** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

DECLENSION is a group of nouns which all follow the same pattern of endings when forming the plural. There are five declensions in Swedish.

DEFINITE is the form of the noun or adjective used with the definite article: **kvinnan** *the woman*, **den vackra kvinnan** *the beautiful woman*.

DEMONSTRATIVE is a word which points to something: *this, that*. (See **Pronouns, E** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

DEPONENT VERBS are verbs which are passive in form (i.e. in Swedish have the passive *s* ending) but are active in meaning: **Jag hoppas, att du kan komma** *I hope that you can come*. (See **Verbs, F** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

DIRECT SPEECH is speech which is quoted exactly, and which in English is always placed between inverted commas, e.g. *He said, "What are you doing here?"* The opposite is reported speech.

FINITE VERB is any form of the verb other than the infinitive, a participle or the supine, e.g. **jag talar** *I speak*, **jag talade** *I spoke*, **jag har talat** *I have spoken*, **jag ska tala** *I shall speak*, **jag kan tala** *I can speak*.

GENDER All Swedish nouns fall into two genders or classes: common (sometimes called non-neuter) or neuter. The form of any article or adjective used with a singular noun depends on the gender of the noun. (The plural of adjectives, nouns and articles is the same for both genders.)

GENITIVE is the form of a noun or pronoun when the possessive *s* is added to it, e.g. **Anns Ann's, hennes her.** (See **Nouns, I** and **Pronouns, A2c** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

IMPERATIVE is the form of the verb used when ordering someone to do something: **Stäng dörren!** *Close the door!*, **Öppna inte fönstret!** *Don't open the window!* (See **Verbs, B6** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

INDECLINABLE adjectives are adjectives which do not have separate forms for use with neuter and plural nouns: **en spännande bok** *an exciting book*, **ett spännande äventyr** *an exciting adventure*, **spännande böcker** *exciting books*, **spännande äventyr** *exciting adventures*.

INDEFINITE is the form of the noun or adjective used with the indefinite article: **en vacker kvinna** *a beautiful woman*.

INDIRECT QUESTIONS are questions the exact words of which are not reported, whereas direct questions quote the exact words, which in English are placed between inverted commas, e.g. (direct question) *John asked, "Have you seen the vicar?"*; (indirect question) *John asked me if I had seen the vicar*. In both English and Swedish it is often necessary to change the pronouns (here, *you* to *I*) and the tense of the verb (here, *have* to *had*) in indirect questions.

INFINITIVE is the part of the verb which is preceded by *to* in English; in Swedish it is preceded by **att**: **att göra** *to do*.

INSEPARABLE COMPOUND VERBS See Compound Verbs.

INTERROGATIVE means question-form; it can be shown by pronouns (**vem?** *who?*, **vilken?** *which?*), adverbs (**var?** *where?*, **varför?** *why?*) or verbs (**kommer han?** *is he coming?*, **ska vi gå?** *shall we go?*).

LOOSE COMPOUND VERBS See Compound Verbs.

MAIN CLAUSE is a plain sentence (consisting of subject, verb, and sometimes object) which expresses the main idea of a sentence (See **Subordinate Clause**).

MODAL VERB is a verb used with another verb to add a new meaning to it: **Han kan komma** *He can come*, **Jag måste gå** *I must go*. Modal verbs are always used with infinitives.

NEUTER is one of the genders in Swedish. All Swedish nouns are either common (sometimes called non-neuter) or neuter gender, and any articles or adjectives used with them must have the same gender.

NON-NEUTER See Common.

NOUN is the name of a place, person, thing, quality, etc: *Stockholm, Mats, table, goodness.*

OBJECT is a thing or person affected by a verb, and can be a noun or pronoun.

For example, in *They sank the ship*, *They* is the subject, *sank* is the verb, and *the ship* is the object. A verb does not always take an object: for example, *The ship sank slowly* (*slowly* in an adverb and not an object): or it may have two objects: *He gave me the book* (*the book* indicates what he gave, whilst *me* indicates to whom he gave it.)

PASSIVE is the form of a verb which indicates that something is done to the subject, rather than by it: *the car was sold, beer is drunk* (instead of *Mats sold the car, he drinks beer*). Note that a passive verb never has an object. (See **Verbs, D** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

PAST is the form of a verb used to describe the past, e.g. *came, talked*. (See **Verbs, B 2** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

PAST PARTICIPLE is part of a verb, e.g. *written, spoken, washed*. In English it can be used both to construct the perfect (*he has spoken*) and as an adjective (*the spoken language*). In Swedish the past participle is only used as an adjective; Swedish constructs the perfect with another form of the verb, the supine. In English the past participle is often the same as the past, but this is not the case in Swedish: **jag tvättade bilen** *I washed the car, bilen är tvättad* *the car is washed*. (See **Verbs, C 2** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

PERFECT is the tense which in English is formed with *to have* plus the past participle: *we have eaten, they have come*; In Swedish it is formed with **att ha** plus the supine: **vi har ätit, de har kommit**. (See **Verbs, B 3** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

PLURAL is the form of a word indicating more than one: *men, tables*. The opposite is singular. Nouns, adjectives and articles in Swedish all have plural forms.

POSSESSIVES are words which indicate possession: *my, mine, John's*. (See **Nouns, I** and **Pronouns, C** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

PREPOSITIONS are words like *in, on, from, to*. They describe the relationships of things to other things: *the plane from New York, on the table*.

PRESENT is the form of a verb used to describe the present: **han går** *he goes, he is going, hon sitter* *she sits, is sitting*.

PRESENT PARTICIPLE is a part of a verb which in English ends in *ing*: *thinking, drinking*. In Swedish it ends in **nde**: **tänkande, drickande**, and is only used as an adjective. (See **Verbs, C 1** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

PRONOUN is a word used to replace a noun, e.g. *He is here* (instead of *John is*

here). Other examples of pronouns are **hon** *she, vilken* *which, min* *mine, de här* *these*. (See **Pronouns** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

RECIPROCAL PRONOUN in English is *each other*. In Swedish it is **varandra** (See **Pronouns, D** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

RECIPROCAL VERBS are verbs which indicate that people do things to each other. In Swedish they can either be formed by using the reciprocal pronoun after the verb or by adding the reciprocal s-ending to it: **De träffar varandra** *They meet each other, De träffas varje dag* *They meet (each other) every day*. (See **Verbs, E** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

REFLEXIVE VERBS are verbs used with the reflexive pronouns (**mig** *myself, dig* *yourself*, etc.) when the subject and the object (i.e. reflexive pronoun) refer to the same thing: **Jag tvättar mig** *I wash (myself)*.

RELATIVE ADVERB is an adverb used to introduce a relative clause. (See **Adverbs, B I c** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

RELATIVE CLAUSE is a minor clause in a sentence and usually refers to the subject or object. It is usually introduced by a relative pronoun or relative adverb: **Mats, som bor i Stockholm, är svetsare. Mats, who lives in Stockholm, is a welder. Stockholm, där han bor, är Sveriges huvudstad. Stockholm, where he lives, is the capital of Sweden.**

RELATIVE PRONOUN is a pronoun used to introduce a relative clause. (See **Pronouns, F** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

REPORTED SPEECH is speech the exact words of which are not reported, whereas direct speech quotes the exact words, which in English are placed between inverted commas. For example: (direct speech) *John said, "I am coming tomorrow."* (indirect speech) *John said that he was coming tomorrow.* In both English and Swedish it is often necessary to change the pronouns (here, *I* to *he*) and the tense of the verb (here, *am* to *was*) in reported speech.

SINGULAR is the form which indicates that only one person or thing is referred to: **en man** *a man, ett bord* *a table*. The opposite is plural. Swedish nouns, adjectives and articles all have plural forms.

STRONG VERB is a verb which has a change of vowel in the past tenses: **dricka, drack, druckit** *drink, drank, drunk*. (See **Verbs, I** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

SUBJECT is the word or phrase in a clause which indicates who or what does, is, etc: **Huset är vitt. The house is white. Erik Olsson bor i Stockholm. Erik Olsson lives in Stockholm.** In English the subject nearly always comes before the verb in a clause, but this is not always the case in Swedish.

SUBORDINATE CLAUSE is a minor clause which is added to the main clause of a sentence. It contains a subject, verb and sometimes an object: **Han sade, att han hade sett filmen. He said that he had seen the film.** A subordinate clause only has meaning in relation to another (main) clause with which it forms a sentence.

SUPERLATIVE is the form of an adjective used for making comparisons of three or more things, *highest, best, most interesting*. (See **Adjectives, E** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

SUPINE is a form of the verb in Swedish used together with the auxiliary verb **att ha** *to have* to form the perfect and pluperfect. In English the supine generally has the same form as the past tense and past participle of a verb: *I washed, I have washed, the car is washed*. In Swedish verbs have three different forms: **jag tvättade, jag har tvättat, bilen är tvättad**. (See **Verbs, B 3** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

TENSE is the time indicated by a verb: present, past, or future.

TRANSITIVE VERBS are verbs which take an object: *He wrote a letter*. Some verbs can be used both transitively (*He grows roses*.) and intransitively (*Roses grow well here*).

VERB is a word which describes an action or state: *go, have, sit, be*. (See **Verbs** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

WANDERING ADVERBS are a group of adverbs in Swedish whose position in the order of words in a clause is dependent on whether the clause is a main clause or subordinate clause. (See **Word order, A 5** in the Grammatical Appendix.)

WEAK VERB is a verb which takes an ending in the past tense: **att vänta, väntade, väntat** *to wait, waited, waited* (contrast strong verb).